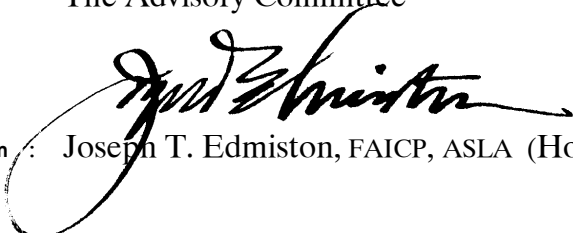


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: November 20, 2006

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, ASLA (Hon.), Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution requesting that the City of Los Angeles not surplus specific properties in Council District 5.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt a letter or resolution requesting that the City of Los Angeles not surplus properties in Council District 5.

Legislative Authority: Section 33207(b) of the Public Resources Code

Background: On October 11, 2006, the Executive Director received correspondence from the City of Los Angeles Department of General Service requesting whether or not the Conservancy had an interest in acquiring any of the 252 surplus parcels, most of which are located in Council District No. 5.

The attached map shows four clusters of the proposed surplus properties. The bulk of the properties are in Beverly Glen Canyon. The majority of the properties have a resource value and their development would result in significant adverse ecological and viewshed impacts. The Conservancy has first right of refusal on all of the subject properties pursuant to Section 33207(b) of the Public Resources Code. The City expects the Conservancy to pay market value for the properties, however, Section 33207(b) calls for sale to the Conservancy at the City's original acquisition price plus administrative fees.

In some cases the city may be facing geologic hazards or instabilities on some of the properties. In such cases it makes sense for public agency not to own such land. However, it is contradictory to the efforts of the MRCA and the Conservancy to surplus open space that is integral to the eastern Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem and key arterial road viewsheds. It may be that the Conservancy must exercise its first right of refusal. On the other hand the preferred action is for the City to retain the vast majority of the properties and/or transfer them to the MRCA. Our staff would commit to identifying which properties can be surplusd without significant degradation of visual and biological resources. Our staff has already been in contact with Council District No. 5 staff. To meet the City's 60 day response time, staff must send a letter stating the Conservancy objects to the sale of the subject parcels in Council District No. 5.

Agenda Item 12  
November 20, 2006  
Page 2

Additional maps will be made available at the Conservancy meeting in addition to a draft letter. In many ways the only efficient method of solving this issue involves the city delaying any and all action in order to work with the Conservancy.